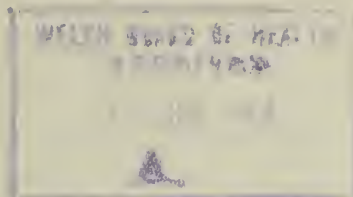
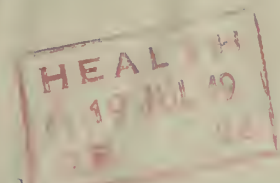


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BUILTH RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1948.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health..T.C.R.George,M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.,
D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector..Mr.C.H.Wright,M.S.I.A.,
M.R.S.I.,
M.I.P.H.H.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health.1948.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my annual report on the Sanitary conditions and the state of the public health in the Builth Rural District for the year 1948.

In the preparation of this report I have endeavoured to deal briefly with all matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine and I have included all the subjects specifically requested by the Welsh Board of Health in Circular 3/49(Wales).

The year under review witnessed the coming into operation of various extremely important Acts, such as the National Health Service Act, 1946, and the National Assistance Act 1948.

These Acts have produced great changes in the work of public health administration and have revolutionised the medical and hospital services throughout the country. The Local Health Authority under these Acts, is, in Breconshire, the County Council.

SECTION 1. GENERAL AND VITAL STATISTICS.Statistical Summary for the year 1948.

Area.....	109,271 acres.
Population (Census 1931).....	4246.
Population (Estimated at Midsummer, 1948).....	3467.
Number of inhabited houses.....	1093.

Live Births.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate per 1000 Pop.
Legitimate.	37	19	56	
Illegitimate.	2	3	5	
	<u>39</u>	<u>22</u>	<u>61</u>	<u>17.6</u>
Still Births.	0	2	2	0.6
Deaths from all causes.	22	23	45	12.9

Maternal Deaths.....One.

Deaths under one year;
.....0. Rate per 1000 live births.....0.

Deaths from special causes;
Infectious disease.....Nil.
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....Three.
Other tuberculous disease.....Nil.
Cancer.....Five.

Area.

The Builth Rural District is a large area situated in the northern part of the County of Breconshire and consists of almost one fifth of the whole county.

The district is agricultural in nature and farming is the predominant occupation of the residents.

There are no large towns in the district.

Builth Rural DistrictPOPULATION. Census 1931.....4246.

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
3731.	3895.	4343.	4103.	3901.	3869.	3753.	3661.	3576.	3467.

The above figures are the Registrar General's estimated figures for the various years and apply only to the civilian population. It would appear that the population has dropped considerably since the last census was taken and is continually dropping. The number of inhabited houses in the district was 1096 giving an average number of 3.1 persons per house.

BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1939.....			54.....	14.4.
1940.....	24.....	28.....	52.....	13.3.
1941.....	35.....	25.....	60.....	13.8.
1942.....	42.....	24.....	66.....	16.0.
1943.....	38.....	38.....	76.....	19.5.
1944.....	40.....	27.....	67.....	17.6.
1945.....	29.....	25.....	54.....	14.3.
1946.....	28.....	25.....	53.....	14.5.
1947.....	23.....	30.....	53.....	14.8.
1948.....	39.....	22.....	61.....	17.6.
England and Wales, 1948.....				17.9.

It will be observed that the birthrate for the year under review was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

DEATHS. After taking into account the outwardly and inwardly transferable deaths the net number of deaths registered amongst residents in the district is shown in the following table;

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938.....			47.....	12.2.
1939.....			48.....	12.7.
1940.....	29.....	19.....	48.....	12.5.
1941.....	34.....	25.....	59.....	13.7.
1942.....	22.....	28.....	50.....	12.2.
1943.....	27.....	17.....	44.....	11.2.
1944.....	19.....	14.....	33.....	8.6.
1945.....	27.....	13.....	40.....	10.6.
1946.....	19.....	21.....	40.....	10.8.
1947.....	18.....	26.....	44.....	12.3.
1948.....	22.....	23.....	45.....	12.9.
England & Wales, 1948.....				10.8.

The deathrate for 1948 was therefore higher than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

STILL BIRTHS.

	Males.	Females.	Total.	Rate.
1938.....			3.....	0.7.
1939.....			7.....	1.8.
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	0.3.
1941.....	3.....	3.....	5.....	1.1.
1942.....	3.....	0.....	2.....	0.4.
1943.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.7.
1944.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1945.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	0.5.
1946.....	2.....	1.....	3.....	0.81.
1947.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
1948.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	0.6.
England and Wales, 1948.....				0.42.

Builth Rural District

INFANTILE MORTALITY. This is the number of deaths occurring in children of under one year of age. The rate is calculated per 1000 live births.

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
1938.....			2.....	28.
1939.....			4.....	74.
1940.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	52.
1941.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	18.
1942.....	2.....	0.....	2.....	30.
1943.....	2.....	3.....	5.....	69.
1944.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	15.
1945.....	1.....	0.....	1.....	15.
1946.....	3.....	2.....	5.....	94.
1947.....	0.....	2.....	2.....	37.
1948.....	0.....	0.....	0.....	0.
England and Wales, 1948.....				34.

The infantile mortality rate for 1948 was lower than the average for the whole of England and Wales.

Analysis of Causes of Deaths, Males.....22. Females...23.

<u>Cause.</u>	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
Tuberculosis of respiratory system.....	1.....	2.
Cancer Stomach.....	1.....	2.
Cancer other sites.....	1.....	1.
Intracranial vascular lesions.....	1.....	3.
Heart Disease.....	11.....	10.
Bronchitis.....	1.....	0.
Pneumonia.....	1.....	1.
Ulcer Stomach.....	0.....	1.
Appendicitis.....	1.....	0.
Other digestive diseases.....	1.....	0.
Nephritis.....	0.....	1.
Maternal causes.....	0.....	1.
Road Traffic accidents.....	1.....	1.
Other violent causes.....	1.....	0.
All other causes.....	1.....	0.

The deaths are classified under the headings given in the now abridged List of Causes of Deaths.

ILLEGITIMACY. The number of illegitimate births registered as belonging to Builth Rural residents during 1948 amounted to 5.

MATERNAL MORTALITY. There was one death in the year which could be attributed to childbirth.

SECTION 2. GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Public Health Officers. There was no change in your officers during the year, Mr.C.H.Wright remaining as your Sanitary Inspector.

Laboratory Facilities. During the year laboratory facilities were available at Cardiff, Newport, Carmarthen, Swansea, Aberystwyth, Builth and Brecon. All water samples were sent to the Public Health Laboratory for the County at Carmarthen whilst any investigation required in the control of infectious disease was performed by the Public Health Laboratory at Cardiff. All the milk sampling was done by the National Milk Testing and Advisory Laboratories at Builth Wells and Brecon.

Ambulance Facilities. As a result of the new National Health Service Act, 1946, certain changes became operative in the arrangements existing for the conveyance of sick persons in the district. The County Council became responsible for the provision of an ambulance service and made use of the existing St. John's Ambulance for general use while ambulances from Merthyr Isolation Hospital conveyed patients suffering from infectious disease to hospital.

Home Nursing. Under the new National Health Act, the County Council became responsible for the provision of home nursing facilities. The nurses previously partly employed by various district nursing associations became whole time employees of the County Council and district nursing associations, as such, ceased to function.

Treatment Centres and Clinics. Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics, administered by the County Council, are held regularly at Park House, Park Road, Builth and the War Memorial Institute, Llanwrtyd. Ante natal clinics are also held in Builth and facilities for the treatment of minor ailments, immunisation, dental, eye and orthopaedic defects are also available.

Hospitals. The hospital needs of the residents of the district, for all diseases apart from infectious disease, are provided by the Builth Hospital.

The arrangements for the treatment of infectious disease remain the same as in previous years. Merthyr Borough Council treat the patients from the district suffering from infectious disease and these are conveyed to Merthyr in ambulances maintained by Merthyr Borough Council. These arrangements are proving extremely satisfactory.

For the treatment of cases of smallpox arrangements have been made by the County Council with Aberdare for beds at the Fedw Hir Hospital.

During the year these hospitals became state owned and controlled.

Disinfection. In the main the methods used for any disinfection required have been fumigation and spraying.

SECTION 3. MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

These services are administered by the County Council and include clinics for maternity and child welfare, immunisation, treatment for dental, eye and orthopaedic defects and also expectant mothers. Provision is also made for the supply of free and cheap rate milk and medicinal foods. The supervision of midwives and the care of premature and illegitimate infants is also the responsibility of the County Council.

SECTION 4. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Water Supplies. The water supplies to the various parts of the district are derived from springs. On the whole the quality of the water can be regarded as satisfactory but the adequacy cannot be so regarded although there was considerable improvement over the previous year.

During the year progress has been made with the new water scheme for the village of Llanwrthwl but this progress appears slow. During the year the only public supply for the village of Llangammach became polluted and as this was likely to recur, preparations for a new scheme were commenced.

The Welsh Board of Health was consulted concerning the major scheme from Abergwessin and, as a result, Major Waters, the Council's Consulting Engineer, was instructed to report on the possibility of alternative smaller schemes.

Builth Rural District

There was no evidence of plumbo solvency.

A great deal of the Sanitary officer's time during the year was taken up with the inspection and upkeep of the Councils water supplies.

Number of bacteriological samples taken = 18
of these 15 were satisfactory and 3 were unsatisfactory.

Number of chemical samples taken = 4
of these 3 were satisfactory and 1 was unsatisfactory.

Number of inspections by sanitary officer = 192

Erwood Supply.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....13.
Population thus supplied.....25.
No. of houses supplied by standpipes.....2.
Population thus supplied.....3.

Crickadern.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....13.
Population thus supplied.....32.

Gwenddwr.

No of houses supplied direct to the house.....1.
Population thus supplied.....2.

In addition there is one school and one school house supplied direct to the premises.

No. of houses supplied by stand-pipe.....11.
Population thus supplied.....29.

Cilmery.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....18.
Population thus supplied.....60.
No. of houses supplied by stand-pipe.....7.
Population thus supplied.....21.

In addition one school and one school house are supplied direct.

Cofngorwydd.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....10.
Population thus supplied.....30.
No. of houses supplied by stand pipe.....9.
Population thus supplied.....8.

Gerth.

No. of houses supplied direct to the house.....8.
Population thus supplied.....22.
No. of houses supplied by standpipe.....12.
Population thus supplied.....35.

The above are all Council's supplies. The remainder of population have private supplies.

The Oaklands part of the parish of Llandowicwm is supplied from the Builth Urban supply.

Drainage and Sewerage. There is no sewerage scheme to any part of the district except for the Oaklands area of the parish of Llandowicwm which is connected to the Builth Urban sewer. Schemes for the disposal of sewage in the villages of Llanwrthwl and Cilmery were being considered. Ten new houses were connected in the parish of Llandowicwm.

Number of drainage inspections by Sanitary Inspector.....81.
Number of drains tested.....88.

Adequate methods of sewage disposal are connected very closely with an increased supply of water and it is to be hoped that both these matters will receive attention in the near future.

Public Cleansing. Only one part of the district has a recognised system of refuse collection and that is the Oaklands part of the Ilardowicwm from which refuse is collected once a fortnight by a local contractor.

A proper system of refuse collection for the whole of the district combined with the establishment of definite tipping sites remain a pressing need of the district. Number of inspections of refuse tips.....13.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area. The sanitary inspector of the area was undertaken by your

Sanitary Inspector, Mr.C.H.Wright.

The following details give information relating to the work of the sanitary inspector during the year.

Nuisances.

Number of complaints received.....	42.
Number of complaints investigated.....	42.
Number of premises visited.....	52.
Number of notices served.....	14.
(a) For structural defects.....	9.
(b) For sanitary defects.....	5.

There has been great difficulty during the year in carrying out repairs owing to the limited supply of building materials. At present repair work is largely of a patching nature and it is hoped that a greater supply of material and labour will soon be available for the repair of domestic property to prevent decent property deteriorating.

Houses let in Lodgings. It is not considered that any of the houses in the district are of such a nature that they require control under byelaws made under Section 6 of the Housing Act, 1936.

Common Lodging Houses. There is no common lodging house in the district.

Offensive Trades. There are no offensive trades in the district.

Licensed Premises.

Number of visits made by the sanitary inspector.....3.

Factories.

Number of factories in the district.....	4.
Number of visits made.....	4.
Number of notices served.....	2.
Number of defects found.....	2.

Camping Sites. There is no recognised camping site in the district.

Eradication of Bed Bugs and Steps taken to combat infestation.

One premises was found to be infested with bed bugs during the year.
Rodent Control.

This work is performed by one of the Councils' workmen, who has little time for this due to other duties.

Number of premises inspected.....	79.
Number found infested.....	30.
Estimated number of rats killed during year.....	363.

Builth Rural District

Legal Proceedings. No legal proceedings were undertaken by the Council during the year.

SECTION 5. HOUSING.

During the year 10 houses were completed in parish of Llandowiewm and, in same parish, a further 12 were commenced. Consideration was also given to the erection of houses in parishes of Llanwrthwl, Llanganton, Penbualt, Crickadern, Rhosforig, Trellis, Llanynis, Maesmynis and Gwenddwr.

The following houses were reported to the Council for action under Section 11, Housing Act, 1936:

15 Oaklands, Hunts' caravan (Newry Rd)., The Bungalow (Newry Rd)., The Lodge, Boulah and Salen Cottage, Llangammarch.

11 Oaklands was also reported Under Sect. 9.

At the end of the year no definite action had been taken with regard to these properties.

Number of house to house inspections made.....124.

There were 42 applications for Council Houses and all were inspected.

Number of notices served.....7.

SECTION 6. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.Milk.Record of Inspections and Milk Testing.

Number of inspections of cowsheds and dairies.....39.

Milk sampling in the district is carried out under the National Milk Testing and Advisory Scheme. Under this scheme an attempt should be made by the Sanitary Inspector to test each retailer's milk every two weeks. Wholesale milk is tested at the various creameries. The laboratories functioning under this scheme is situated at Builth Wells and Brecon.

Under this scheme milk is graded into the following categories and the following number of results were obtained:-

Category A.....	Milk of good keeping quality.....	41.
Category B.....	Milk of doubtful keeping quality.....	0.
Category C.....	Milk of poor keeping quality.....	3.

Meat. There is no slaughter house in your area and all the meat is supplied to the district from the Ministry of Food Slaughtering Point in the Colwyn Rural District.

Ice Cream Premises. There are no retailers of ice cream in the district.

SECTION 7. PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following number of cases of notifiable infectious disease were reported to me during the year;

Scarlet Fever.....	1 case.
Cerebrospinal Fever.....	1 case.
Typhoid Fever.....	1 case.

The cases of scarlet fever and cerebrospinal fever were isolated at home. The typhoid case was infected outside the district and was isolated in an isolation hospital at Shrewsbury. No death was caused by infectious disease during the year.

Builth Rural District

Under the new Health Act, all fees for the notification of infectious disease are now refunded by the County Council, provided that copies of notifications are received by the County Council.

Venereal Disease. The County Council has an agreement with the General and Eye Hospital, Swansea, for the treatment of these cases. The tracing of contacts and the following up of defaulters is the responsibility of the County Council.

Tuberculosis. The following details show the position as regards tuberculosis in recent years;

Number of cases on the register at commencement of year.....	7.
Number of fresh cases added during the year.....	8.
Number of deaths during the year.....	3.
Number of cases removed as recovered.....	0.
Number of cases removed as left the district.....	0.
Number of cases left on register at the end of the year.....	12.

The number of notifications in recent years is shown below;

1939.	1940.	1941.	1942.	1943.	1944.	1945.	1946.	1947.	1948.
2.	1.	1.	2.	0.	2.	3.	4.	1.	8.

The County Council is responsible for the allowances scheme.

Diphtheria

Immunisation As a result of the new Health Act, the County Council became responsible for the immunisation of children against diphtheria and details for the district will be found in the annual report of the County Medical Officer.

In December of the year, the County Council took over all these duties from me. Facilities for immunisation are available at the ordinary Maternity and Child Welfare Clinics and also at the schools during the school medical inspections.

No case of diphtheria occurred in the district during the year.

Yours faithfully,

T.C.R. George,

Medical Officer of Health